

Message Text

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21

ACTION DLOS-06

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ARA-10 EA-09 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 FEA-01

ACDA-10 AGR-10 AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00

CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-04 ERDA-07

FMC-02 TRSE-00 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 IO-13 JUSE-00 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 NSF-02 OES-06 OMB-01 PA-02 PM-04

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 SAL-01 /190 W

----- 024082

R 262316Z JUL 76

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8418

INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

UNCLAS USUN 3014

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UN, TSPA

SUBJ: AMERASINGHE ON GROUP OF 77 DIVERGENCIES AT THE

UN LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE

1. AMB. AMERASINGHE, PRESIDENT OF THE THIRD UN CONFERENCE ON THE LAW OF THE SEA AND PRESIDENT-ELECT OF THE 31ST SESSION OF THE UN GA, HAS, AS IS USUAL FOR HIM BEFORE SESSIONS OF THE LOS CONFERENCE, PREPARED A SUBSTANTIAL NOTE FOR THE CONFERENCE'S 5TH SESSION TO BE HELD IN NEW YORK FROM 2 AUGUST THROUGH 17 SEPTEMBER. (THE NOTE WAS DISTRIBUTED TO UN MISSIONS ON 26 JULY AS A/CONF. 62/L.12, DATED 21 JULY.) IT CONTAINS HIS OBSERVATIONS ON THE PRINCIPAL AREAS ON WHICH HE BELIEVES DELEGATIONS SHOULD CONCENTRATE.

2. WE THINK IT INTERESTING THAT AMERASINGHE CHOOSES TO CONCLUDE HIS ANALYSIS BY CALLING ATTENTION TO DIVERSITIES OF INTEREST WITHIN THE GROUP OF 77 ON LOS ISSUES, IN THE FOLLOWING TERMS:

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25. A SIGNIFICANT FEATURE OF LOS CONFERENCE, AS DISTINCT FROM OTHER AREAS OF UN ACTIVITY, IS DIVERGENCE OF INTERESTS BETWEEN STATES WHICH ARE MEMBERS OF GEOGRAPHICAL AND OTHER GROUPS THAT NORMALLY FUNCTION WITHIN UN SYSTEM.

26. ON ECONOMIC ISSUES DEMARCATION HITHERTO HAS, BY AND LARGE, BEEN BETWEEN THREE MAIN GROUPS, VIZ.:

- (I) DEVELOPED MARKET ECONOMIES;
- (II) SOCIALIST GROUP OF COUNTRIES WITH CENTRALLY-CONTROLLED ECONOMIES; AND
- (III) DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WHICH ARE ASSOCIATED IN GROUP OF 77.

27. AS REGARDS PROBLEMS OF LOS, HOWEVER, THERE IS NO ABSOLUTE COMMUNITY OF INTEREST ON MANY KEY ISSUES, EVEN AMONG MEMBERS OF ANY OF THESE WIDER GROUPS. A NEW AND SUBSTANTIAL GROUP HAS EMERGED IN FORM OF LAND-LOCKED AND GEOGRAPHICALLY DISADVANTAGED COUNTRIES WHERE DIVISION BETWEEN JOINT ACTION MAINLY FOR PURPOSE OF ENSURING ACCESS TO SEA AND MEANS OF OBTAINING A LEGITIMATE SHARE OF COMMON HERITAGE OF MANKIND. MEMBERS OF SOCIALIST GROUP ARE ALSO INCLUDED IN GROUP OF LAND-LOCKED AND GEOGRAPHICALLY DISADVANTAGED STATES. CONCEPT OF EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE HAS BROUGHT INTO BEING A GROUP OF COASTAL STATES WHICH INCLUDES BOTH DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

28. OLD TIES HAVE BECOME BLURRED IN PURSUIT OF NEW INTERESTS.

29. NEGOTIATIONS DURING FORTHCOMING FIFTY SESSION WILL BE THE MOST CRUCIAL STAGE OF THIS CONFERENCE. THEY WILL PROVE TO BE A SEVERE TEST OF DIPLOMATIC ACUME, INTERNATIONAL GOODWILL AND POLITICAL VISION.

BENNETT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LAW OF THE SEA, MEETINGS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976USUNN03014
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760288-0561
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760720/aaaaariz.tel
Line Count: 96
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION DLOS
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hackerp0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 MAR 2004 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <06 JAN 2005 by hackerp0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMERASINGHE ON GROUP OF 77 DIVERGENCIES AT THE UN LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE
TAGS: TSPA, PLOS, GROUP OF 77
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006